

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 12-16 and 20 have been amended herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**I. Claim Objections**

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 (and similarly for Claims 8, 12, 16 and 20), stating the phrase "to be used in a project" has no patentable weight as the phrase pertains to intended use. Applicants have amended such claims accordingly to replace this objectionable phrase. Therefore, the objection to the claims has been overcome.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner rejected Claims 3-6, 14, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner notes Claims 3, 6, 14 and 15 are unclear in regard with what the result of the determination is and how that ties to the selection in the second part of the claim. In response thereto, Applicants have amended such claims to provide such clarification.

The Examiner further notes that "for each connection" recited in Claim 20 is unclear. Applicants have amended such claim in accordance with the description of the preferred embodiment at page 6, lines 9-18; page 10, lines 11-19; and page 18, line 23 – page 20, line 6.

Therefore the rejection of Claims 3-6, 14, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

**III. 35 U.S.C. § 101**

The Examiner rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner notes that Claim 20 is not limited to tangible embodiments, and therefore non-statutory. Applicants have amended Claim 20 to be limited to tangible embodiments, and thus Claim 20 is statutory.

Therefore the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been overcome.

#### IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rische (US. 2002/0107840 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is generally directed to techniques for assisting a user in formulating database query statements using context sensitive database assistance in an integrated development environment. Responsive to activation of a database assistance function, a database assistance interface is generated based on at least a portion of the database query statement and database information for each project database, such that the database query statement can be populated in response to user input to the database assistance interface. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the interactive nature of such database assistance interface that is used to populate a database query statement. In effect, per the invention of Claim 1, a user is presented with the underlying complexities of a database on a user display interface to assist the user in formulating the database search query. In contrast, per the teachings of the cited reference, such complexities are masked from a user, and the user is instead provided programming access to a database (i.e. not via a *user display interface*, as claimed) that has been wrapped into a semantic conceptual schema so as to allow formulation of queries in SQL against the wrapping schema in order to reduce the size of SQL queries (Abstract, last sentence). Users *manually compose* queries based on this semantic view, and such queries are translated into basic database operations (page 5, paragraph [0035], lines 1-12). There is no teaching of providing any type of database assistance interface that is generated and displayed for user co-action therewith, as per Claim 1. It is thus urged that Claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference.

With respect to Claims 2-11, Applicants initially traverse for reasons given above with respect to Claim 1 (of which Claims 2-11 depend upon).

Further with respect to Claim 3 (and dependent Claims 4 and 5), it is urged that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of "determining whether a table name in the database query statement is ambiguous with respect to other table names in the each database, and if so, providing a table selection interface for selecting a table from a plurality of candidate tables". In rejecting Claim 3, the Examiner cites Rische's teachings on page 5, paragraph 0034, lines 5-8 as teaching both the ambiguous determination and the table selection interface. Applicants urge that this cited passage describes the use of particular programming semantics provided as a part of the SEM-SQL language itself (page 7, paragraph 0090-0091), and are not part of any type of information displayed to a user using a user interface, nor is there provided any user interface for selecting a table from a plurality of candidate tables. Claim 3 has been amended to further emphasize this distinction. It is thus further urged that Claim 3 is not anticipated by the cited reference.

Further with respect to Claim 6, Applicants urge that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of "determining whether a column name in the database query statement is ambiguous with respect to other column names in the each database, and if so, providing a column selection interface for selecting a column name from a plurality of candidate column names". In rejecting Claim 6, the Examiner cites Rische's teachings on page 6, paragraph 0060, lines 1-3 as teaching both the ambiguous determination and the column selection interface. Applicants urge that this cited passage describes that a component may be named with either its full semantic name or its short semantic name if no ambiguity exists. Such naming of components does not teach any type of column selection interface for selecting a column name, as expressly recited in Claim 6. Claim 6 has been amended to further clarify this distinction, and it is thus urged that Claim 6 is not anticipated by the cited reference.

With respect to Claims 12-20, Applicants initially traverse the rejection of such claims for similar reasons to those given above with respect to Claim 1.

Further with respect to Claim 14, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to the further reasons given above with respect to Claim 3.

Further with respect to Claim 15, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to the further reasons given above with respect to Claim 6.

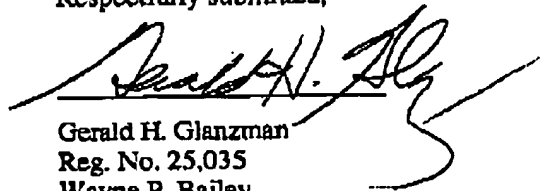
Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

V. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: May 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald H. Glanzman  
Reg. No. 25,035  
Wayne P. Bailey  
Reg. No. 34,289  
Yee & Associates, P.C.  
P.O. Box 802333  
Dallas, TX 75380  
(972) 385-8777  
Attorneys for Applicants